

exaggerates the result of the Act for the Settling of Schools passed by the Scottish Parliament in 1696.<sup>1</sup> In Scotland, even before that date, ' education was more widely spread among all classes than in any other nation/ and the Act marked no new departure, though it was doubtless more effective than its predecessors.<sup>2</sup> In another passage, Macaulay dwells on the influence of commercial considerations in modifying the stubborn attachment of the Scots to their independence, and in preparing the way for the union of the kingdoms. He exaggerates the importance of the freedom of trade which existed during the Cromwellian union, and the extent of the prosperity resulting from it as factors in producing these results.<sup>3</sup> Hopes for the future, not reminiscences of ' the golden days of the usurper ', influenced the Scots. The failure of the Darien scheme showed that the development of a national trade was impossible without a closer union with England.

Much evidence illustrating the social and economic history of Scotland has been published since Macaulay wrote. To begin with, there are four volumes containing descriptions of Scotland, written by English and foreign travellers during the seventeenth century.<sup>4</sup> The accounts

<sup>1</sup> V1, 2698 (xii).

• Brown, ii. 357, ill. 56-7, 209; cf. Lecky, History of England in the Eighteenth Century, ii. 44.

<sup>3</sup>IV, 1540-42 (xiii). Macaulay was led into this error by Hill Burton. Whatever advantages the Scots then derived from freedom of trade were neutralised by the weight of taxation. See C. H. Firth, *The Last Years of the Protectorate* (2 vols. ; 1909), ii. 113-15, 119 ; and Miss Theodora Keith's article on Scottish Trade with the Plantations before 1707, in *Scottish Historical Review*, vi. 32-48.

<sup>4</sup> Early Travellers in Scotland (1891) ; Scotland before 1700, from *Contemporary Documents* (1893) ; *Tours in Scotland*, by Thomas Kirk and Ralph Thoresby (1892). All three collections were edited by Professor Hume Brown. There is also C. Lowther's *Journey into Scotland* in 1629, edited in 1894 by William Douglas.